

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 FBO-02 A-01 INR-07

ABF-01 /038 W

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R 021257Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 505

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AF/W FOR AMB EASUM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: FMG REQUISITION OF EMBASSY ANNEX

REF: LAGOS 7241

1. CHARGE TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF JOGGING PAST RESIDENCE OF ACTING MEA PERMSEC DOVE-EDWIN AUG 1 TO STOP FOR BRIEF CHAT. DOVE-EDWIN WAS RELAXED AND FRIENDLY AS USUAL. CHARGE ASKED WHEN PERMSEC IYALLA WOULD BE RETURNING AND MENTIONED OUR INTEREST IN CLARIFYING RENT-FREE ASPECT OF OKOTIE EBOH OCCUPANCY. DOVE-EDWIN RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT IN FACT KNOW WHERE IYALLA WAS, BUT HE EXPECTED THAT NOW THE AIRFIELDS WERE OPEN, HE WOULD RETURN.

2. WITH REGARD TO OKOTIE EBOH, HOWEVER, DOVE-EDWIN STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AGAINST PUSHING THE RENT-FREE QUESTION FURTHER. HE RECOMMENDED THAT WE GO AHEAD WITH THE MOVE AND SAID HE FELT CERTAIN THE QUESTION OF RENT WOULD NEVER ARISE. HE CITED OCCASION ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO WHEN POSSIBILITY OF RENTING FORMER MINISTERIAL VILLAS (SUCH AS OKOTIE EBOH) WAS DISCUSSED AND GOVERNMENT DECIDED IT WOULD RATHER LEAVE THEM VACANT THAN PUT A PRICE ON THEM. DOVE-EDWIN CONCLUDED THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT WANT TO BE IN POSITION OF HAGGLING OVER HOW NAIRA USG SHOULD PAY FOR OKOTIE-EBOH; HE BELIEVED GOVERNMENT WOULD CONCLUDE US HAD BEEN INCONVENIENCED ENOUGH BY ENFORCED OUSTER FROM MOLONEY STREET. ON
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OTHER HAND, DOVE-EDWIN SAID HE THOUGHT US PRESSURE ON THIS POINT

NOW INADVIASBLE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF BRIGADIER OBASANJO'S PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT IN THE MATTER AND HIS PRESENT ELEVATION TO CHIEF OF STAFF, SUPREME HEADQUARTERS.

3. CHARGE ASKED IF MIGHT NOT BE USEFULE TO PUT SOMETHING ON THE RECORD ABOUT THE RENT-FREE ISSUE, AS AMBASSADOR EASUM'S DISCUSSION OF IT WITH IYALLA HAD BEEN ORAL. DOVE-EDWIN SUGGESTED EMBASSY MIGHT SEND A NOTE, SIMPLY RECORDING THE EASUM/IYALLA DISCUSSION AND PROPOSED BARGAIN, NOTING OUR ACTION IN INITIATING MOVE OF AID TO ELSIE FEMI PEARSE, AND REPORTING CHARGE'S CONVERSATION WITH DOVE-EDWIN. HAVING PUT IT ON THE RECORD IN THIS WAY, WE SHOULD NOT PUSH THE MATTER FURTHER, IN DOVE-EDWIN'S VIEW.

4. CANADIAN ARCHITECT IN MINEDUCATION INFORMED EMBASSY AUG. 2 THAT HE IS TO REPORT TO NEW COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION AUG. 4 ON EMBASSY'S PROGRESS IN VACATING MOLONEY AND WHEN MINED COULD MOVE IN. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR PROBLEM ON RENT-FREE ISSUE, BUT HE OBSERVED THAT PRESSURE IS AGAIN MOUNTING FOR URGENT ACTION ON THE MOVE.

5. COMMENT: WE PLAN TO MOVE AID CONTROLLER SECTION TO ELSIE FEMI PEARSE AUG. 4, AND IF IYALLA HAS RETURNED CHARGE WILL TRY TO CONTACT HIM ON RENT-FREE ISSUE.

6. IF IYALLA IS NO LONGER PERMSEC, AS IS QUITE POSSIBLE, WE BELIEVE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE TO DRAFT NOTE AS PROPOSED BY DOVE-EDWIN, SHOWING IT TO HIM BEFORE DELIVERY AS IT CITES HIM PERSONALLY. HOWEVER, DOVE-EDWIN'S ADVICE NOT TO PRESS FURTHER ON RENT-FREE ISSUE WOULD LEAVE US NO GUARANTEE OR PROTECTION. WE WOULD THEREFORE BE INCLINED INSTEAD TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH NEW PERMSEC WHEN APPOINTED AND BEFORE COMMENCING MOVE OF OTHER OFFICES TO OKOTIE-EBOH. WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR EASUM'S COMMENTS AND ADVISE.
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